

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /091 W

----- 039313

R 300830Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6953

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

EC BRUSSELS 278

USMISSION NATO

DIA

USDOCOSOUTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALETTA 1004

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,MT, AG

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF TO VISIT ALGERIA

REF: VALLETTA 0989 (NOTAL), 0986 (NOTAL)

1. THE GOM HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF AND A "HIGH-POWERED MALTESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION" WILL LEAVE ON MONDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 30 FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT TO ALGERIA.

2. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT MINTOFF WILL HAVE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE CONCERNING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND THAT THE MEETING

WAS ARRANGED BY THE MALTESE AND ALGERIAN DELEGATIONS AT THE RECENT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN SRI LANKA.

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3. COMMENT: THIS OBVIOUSLY IS ANOTHER ONE OF MINTOFF'S SELF-GENERATED FLYING VISITS ABROAD DESIGNED TO ENHANCE HIS LOCAL IMAGE AS A "WORLD STATESMAN". AS THIS TRIP COMES IN THE MIDST OF THE MALTESE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, IT CLEARLY IS DESIGNED TO GET ONE-UP ON THE OPPOSITION NATIONALISTS IN THE FOREIGN POLICY AREA. MINTOFF'S LABOR PARTY HAS PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED ALGERIA AS BEING ONE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN NATIONS WHICH "SUPPORTS" ITS IDEAS FOR SECURITY AND ECONOMIC "GUARANTEES" FOR MALTA AFTER THE BRITISH MILITARY FORCES DEPART IN 1979. THEREFORE, THIS SUBJECT DOUBTLESS WILL BE ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN MINTOFF AND BOUMEDIENE. END COMMENT
WIGGINS

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